

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND QUALITY DECISIONS

The CEQ regulations state [in Part 1500.1(c)] that ultimately it is better decisions that count and not excellent paperwork. Better decisions (in the CEQ sense) would occur from emphasizing results and excellent action rather than emphasizing better documents and excellent paperwork. Using the criteria for quality decisions developed during the 1994 Office of Energy Research (now SC) NEPA Workshop (*Ref. 13*), SC interprets quality decisions (in the CEQ sense) to be those that would:

- Be based on the best available information and an understanding of environmental consequences [Using Criteria 5, 6 above];
- Be based on real choices among real alternatives, early in project planning and design [Criteria 1, 5, 6]; and
- Include benefit from public involvement [Criteria 5, 8, 10];

Quality decisions from the SC decision maker's perspective would have the above three components, and they would:

- Be made in an efficient, cost effective, and timely manner [Criteria 1, 5, 6, 7]; and
- Achieve the DOE and SC decision-maker's purpose and need [Criterion 9].